

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ALGIER 01864 281051Z

15

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 STR-04 EB-07 AID-05 SP-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /053 W
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R 281032Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4930
INFO USMISSION GENEVA

CONFIDENTIAL ALGIERS 1864

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIN, AG
SUBJECT: ILLICIT PAYMENTS

REF: STATE 179170

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH SECYGEN OF FOREIGN MINISTRY
ABDELMALEK BENHABYLES AFTERNOON JULY 26 I RAISED

QUESTION OF ILLICIT PAYMENTS AND REQUESTED ALGERIAN
SUPPORT FOR OUR PROPOSAL FOR INTERNATIONAL
AGREEMENT ON SUBJECT. NOTED THAT GOA HAS ASKED FOR OUR
COOPERATION ON INVESTIGATION ILLICIT PAYMENTS AND GAVE
SOME DETAILS OF CHEMICO CASE AS REPORTED STATE 182756
TO ILLUSTRATE GRAVITY OF PROBLEM (IT IS INDICATIVE
OF LACK OF COMMUNICATION WITH ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT
THAT BENHABYLES APPARENTLY WAS NOT AWARE OF DETAILS
OF SUIT IN QUESTION). WE WERE READY TO COOPERATE BUT
NEEDED FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH TO DO IT. TO THIS END
WE HAD PROPOSED AT GENEVA A CONVENTION ON ILLICIT
PAYMENTS, BUT OTHERS HAD PROPOSED THAT FIRST THERE
SHOULD BE GENERAL STUDY OF CORRUPT PRACTICES, INCLUDING
ILLICIT PAYMENTS. WE SAW NO CONFLICT BETWEEN A CONVENTION
ON ILLICIT PAYMENTS AND A CODE OF CONDUCT FOR TRANS-
NATIONAL COMPANIES BUT LATTER WAS MUCH MORE
COMPLICATED SUBJECT THAN FORMER. A DECISION TO REFER
CONVENTION ON ILLICIT PAYMENT TO STUDY GROUP WOULD
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IN EFFECT DERAIL OUR PROPOSAL. WHILE WE HAD NO DIRECT

INFORMATION ON POSITION TAKEN BY THE ALGERIAN
REPRESENTATIVE AT GENEVA, WE HAD IMPRESSION FROM
CONVERSATIONS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT ALGERIA
WAS AMONG THOSE COUNTRIES SUPPORTING IDEA OF
GENERAL STUDY. WE HOPED ALGERIA WOULD FIND IT
POSSIBLE TO SUPPORT OUR PROPOSITION INSTEAD.

2. BENHABYLES VOLUNTEERED THAT IT SEEMED TO HIM THAT
ILLICIT PAYMENTS AND CODE OF CONDUCT WERE TWO QUITE
DIFFERENT THINGS. HE SAID HE WOULD LOOK INTO THE
MATTER AND IMPLIED HE THOUGHT OUR POSITION REASONABLE.
I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THIS WILL HAVE ANY IMPACT ON
POSITION OF ALGERIAN DELEGATION AT GENEVA. PARKER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CORRUPTION, INTERNATIONAL LAW, RESOLUTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ALGIER01864
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760291-0804
From: ALGIERS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760715/aaaaamws.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION L
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 179170
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 MAY 2004 by buchant0>; APPROVED <20 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ILLICIT PAYMENTS
TAGS: EFIN, AG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006